4/15/07

CELEBRATE DIVERSITY

Festival will not be complete if gays are left out

Since moving to Colorado Springs five years ago, I had begun to believe that the words "diversity," "tolerance" and "Colorado Springs" were oxymorons. Much to my surprise, I saw that there was going to be a diversity parade, until I read further and realized that gays may not be allowed because "most of the community doesn't support them" ("Council debates gays' place at diversity fest," The Gazette, April 12). What is diversity if it isn't celebrating, or at least accepting, differences? Eating Chinese food and saying that somehow we're celebrating diversity, or cheering on a cultural arts program, is simply being safe.

Political? Of course. Diverse people, however you define those differences, want a place at the table, and want to be considered equal citizens.

Not support gays? People in Colorado Springs are supporting them all the time — but they don't want to know about it. We support them as teachers, in our military, as artists, sometimes as our clergy (whether we know it or not), as our firefighters and police.

Please, don't be hypocritical about this. If you're going to have a diversity festival, then, please, truly accept diversity. Otherwise, wait a few years until the city is ready to truly celebrate differences.

Linda Seger
Cascade

Excluding gays wouldn't say much for city

Thanks, Gazette, for the chuckle. Thursday's article on the front page was an instant hoot. The opening sentence, a question, says it all: "Should gays have a place in a festival celebrating cultural diversity?" Anything beyond a simple yes makes a profound statement as to our lack of open-mindedness. If we can't love our neighbors, all of them, we can't celebrate diversity in any shape or form.

Mike Neeley
Colorado Springs

Channels 5 and 30.

THU.

Turning windy
65/35

Tomorrow
....6:22 a.m.
....7:37 p.m.

Tomorrow
....5:41 a.m.
....7:05 p.m.

Last

May 9

Normal low

80° 79°
63° 65°
18° 16°
18 19

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Weather
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INDEX
Good
Unavailable
Good
moderate; 101-199
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Updated weather information: Go to ww

City	Yesterday hi/lo/wx	Tomorrow hi/lo/wx	City	Yesterday hi/lo/wx	To hi
Alamosa	45/5/s	52/22/t	Fort Collins	64/25/s	
Boulder	62/29/s	53/27/sh	Fort Morgan	68/26/s	
Buena Vista	58/15/s	46/30/rs	Glenwood Springs	65/20/s	
Canon City	65/28/s	51/34/sh	Grand Junction	64/28/s	
Cortez	62/27/s	56/28/sh	Greeley	66/19/s	
Craig	61/15/s	50/29/sh	Gunnison	55/17/s	
Crested Butte	43/19/s	44/19/rs	La Junta	51/21/s	
Denver	63/24/s	54/32/sh	Lamar	37/16/s	
Durango	56/32/s	56/30/t	Leadville	44/5/s	

THE NATION

City	Today hi/lo/wx	Tomorrow hi/lo/wx	City	Today hi/lo/wx	To hi
Albany	40/33/rs	37/33/rs	Evansville	55/35/c	
Albuquerque	71/44/s	59/35/t	Fairbanks	45/23/pc	
Amarillo	70/41/s	61/39/pc	Fargo	60/36/s	
Anchorage	43/31/rs	46/32/sh	Flagstaff	54/25/pc	
Atlanta	51/36/t	66/46/s	Fresno, CA	64/47/pc	
Atlantic City	46/39/r	48/36/sh	Goodland, KS	67/38/s	
Austin	75/46/s	77/56/pc	Great Falls, MT	47/26/sh	
Baltimore	47/36/r	53/34/c	Green Bay	50/30/pc	
Billings	62/36/pc	58/36/sh	Hartford	40/36/r	
Birmingham	55/35/sh	70/44/s	Helena	47/28/sh	
Bismarck	69/39/s	57/33/sh	Honolulu	85/74/s	
Boise	53/32/sh	62/36/pc	Houston	73/47/s	
Boston	38/35/r	46/37/rs	Indianapolis	53/34/pc	
Buffalo	39/32/rs	38/29/sn	Jacksonville	72/42/t	
Casper	63/32/pc	54/30/sh	Kansas City	63/39/s	
Christon., SC	71/41/t	68/44/s	Knoxville	47/35/sh	
Christon., WV	45/35/sh	50/33/rs	Las Vegas	71/54/pc	
Charlotte	65/37/t	63/41/pc	Little Rock	63/39/s	
Chattanooga	50/38/sh	65/42/pc	Los Angeles	65/54/pc	
Cheyenne	66/36/pc	49/31/sh	Louisville	52/36/sh	
Chicago	51/34/pc	54/38/s	Memphis	61/40/pc	
Cincinnati	50/34/sh	53/38/pc	Miami	85/59/t	
Cleveland	41/33/rs	43/32/rs	Milwaukee	50/33/pc	
Columbia, SC	67/40/t	68/43/s	Minneapolis	58/34/s	
Columbus, GA	60/36/t	70/47/pc	Monterey	61/47/s	
Columbus, OH	47/33/sh	49/35/pc	Nashville	51/38/sh	
Dallas	71/48/s	73/53/pc	New Orleans	67/49/s	
Daytona Bch.	76/48/t	72/52/s	New York	43/37/r	
Des Moines	61/38/s	65/43/s	Newark	42/36/r	
Detroit	49/30/rs	52/33/pc	Norfolk	62/42/t	
Duluth	51/28/s	55/36/pc	N. Platte, NE	70/39/s	
El Paso	78/50/s	74/45/pc	Okla. City	67/44/s	